

REMARKS

Election/Restriction

Applicants were obliged to elect a species and hereby affirm the election of Species II which comprises the embodiment depicted in figure 5 of the application. It is believed, however, that in view of the amendment to claim 1 and following remarks, claim 1 remains generic to all of the species, in particular, to the species of Figures 1 and 5. Thus, applicants continue to reserve the right to add dependent claims directed to additional species assuming that the single independent generic claim 1 is deemed allowable.

Specification

Applicants have amended the headings in the application to delete the underlining. It is believed therefore that the specification objection has been obviated.

Claim Objections

Claim 9 has been amended to correct a typographical error as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention and to more clearly distinguish the subject matter claimed from the principal prior art as well as the other references cited by the Examiner. Specifically, the Examiner rejected the claims on the basis of *Young*, U.S. Patent No. 5,964,384 for a Traveling Bag with Expandable Storage Volume issued October 12, 1999. Claims 1 and 5 were rejected as being anticipated. The remaining dependent claims were rejected as being unpatentable in view of a combination of *Young* with *Keeper*, U.S. Patent No. 2,729,257.

Briefly the invention comprises a soft-sided or flexible bag which is divided into two basic parts. The overall combination of the two bags is foldable for storage, shipment and the

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Serial No. 10/648,456
Attorney Docket No. 04286.00124

like into the first bag. Thus, by way of example and referring to Figure 5, the first bag 60 includes a peripheral fastener 71 which is cooperative with a peripheral fastener 72 as shown in Figure 7 so that the extension of the bag 60; namely, the second bag 62, may be totally enclosed. In this manner, a very compact combination can be packaged for shipment, display, etc., yet in essence be unfolded for utilization.

Among the notable features of the application is that the first bag includes a sidewall 64 which forms a side of the combination of the bags 60 and 62. Another important feature is the totally peripheral fastening elements; namely, the zipper mechanism 71, 72 which joins a portion of the second bag 62 to the first bag 60. Thus, a panel 78A in Figure 5 is provided as part of the second bag 62. This panel may be attached to the first bag 60 via the zipper mechanism 71, 72 to enclose a major part of the second bag 62.

The principal reference relied upon by the examiner is the *Young* reference. In *Young* a cover 40 appears to be attached by a hinge connection to a rigid sided panel 23. Cover 40 is pivotal along one edge about the hinge connection. The drawing depicts the cover 40 connected or attached to the panel wall. Also, claim 1 of the *Young* patent teaches that the cover 40 is "attached". Thus, the *Young* zipper mechanism, which is utilized to subsequently join the cover 40 to the carrying case; namely, the zipper 51, 52, does not encircle a peripheral section of either of the bags forming the volume depicted in the *Young* patent. In contrast, claim 1 of the present application requires that the first partial bag is separate and distinct from the component part of the second bag to which it is joined. For example, referring again to Figure 5, the second bag 62 includes a bag section with a closed loop fastener 72 which connects with the closed loop fastener 71 of the first bag 60. In other words, there is total separation between the component

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parts of the respective first and second bags which may be joined together by means of the closed loop zipper mechanism 71, 72.

There are other claim distinctions. For example, the first and second bags are each of flexible material. Also, as depicted in Figure 8 and Figure 9, the concept of Figure 5 (as well as Figure 1) may be incorporated to provide for an expanding bag construction comprised of three sections. This concept does not appear to be enabled by the *Young* reference.

The claims of the present invention are therefore amended so as to set forth with greater particularity the differentiation in construction of the subject matter presently claimed vis-à-vis the *Young* reference. In view of these amendments and the foregoing comments, it is believed that the claims are allowable including dependent claims 2-4. Reconsideration and passage to allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 9, 2005

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